

CPYRGHT

CIA Selection Is Sensible

In accepting the resignation of Adm. William Raborn, widely criticized director of the Central Intelligence Agency, President Johnson was wise to replace him with Richard Helms, a career intelligence officer who has served as deputy director.

Raborn's successor has an impressive background. As deputy director, Helms had been expected to compensate for Raborn's lack of experience and expertise in intelligence work.

Helms is the first career intelligence officer to reach the top of the CIA since Allen Dulles. He was a Phi Beta Kappa at Williams College, then a foreign correspondent before entering intelligence work

20 years ago.

Since Dulles resigned as CIA chief in the wake of the Bay of Pigs debacle, the agency's directors have been recruited from outside the ranks. John A. McCone came from a background of big business and high level federal service. Raborn earned his reputation as an administrator with a keen ability to work with people developing complex technologies.

In turning to an insider to head the agency, the President has chosen experience as the possible cost of increased clamor in Congress for an enlarged watchdog committee to serve as the objective of their impact on foreign policy and national security.